NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

VISION-2025: CONNECTING NORTH EAST THROUGH OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

ORGANIZED BY

REGIONAL CENTRE, JORHAT
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

In collaboration with

And

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY, ASSAM
CSIR-NORTH EAST INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Venue: CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat
Dates: 6th and 7th May 2017
Background of the conference:
The North East Region (NER) has its own specific characteristics and the process of development is impeded by certain inherent difficulties such as inadequate infrastructure, adverse climatic conditions, mountainous landscape, border clashes and ethnic tensions. The profound transformations, in context with changes in education systems may arguably respond differently to the needs and demands of contemporary societies and economies in NER. Thus, the need to overhaul the education system of today may also be region specific and needs contextualization. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in North East is far below than the national average primarily because of less number of institutions in the region. Moreover the educated youth are also unemployed due to insufficient skills and mismatch in the present day work market. Therefore, Open and Distance Education has to play a very pro-active role not only to increase GER but also to offer quality skill based education which either make the young masses employable or entrepreneurs. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) has the flexibilities to serve the aspirations of learners anywhere, anytime and anyplace. Thus ODL can connect NER in terms of education and mobility of learners to acquire desired knowledge. However, in view of changing work market and emerging technology the education system including ODL has to re-orient its strategy for NER.

Aims and Objectives of the Conference:
1. To have an overview of the profile of higher education institutions and skill development institutions of NER.
2. To identify the difficulties faced by NER in the field of education and map the probable need based skill development programmes relevant to NER in the near future.
3. To frame strategy to be adopted by institutions of ODL to skill the masses so as to face the new challenges of the emerging technology driven society.

Theme of the Conference:
VISION-2025: CONNECTING NORTH EAST THROUGH OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Sub-themes:
1. Development and present Status of Higher education in NER
2. Socio-political history of NER and impact on educational development
3. Role of Distance education in Higher Education and skill Development
4. Privatization of Higher education
5. Reservation Policy in India in Higher Education
6. Women and weaker Sections (SC/ST) in Higher Education
7. Educational programme for skill development
8. Resource mapping and needs of new strategy for Education/ODL, identifying need based academic programme.
9. Emerging Technologies and ODL
10. New technology driven society in North East India: adapting to education & changes
11. Synergy and collaboration between institutions
12. Research in Distance Education in North East India
13. The changing profile of the learner/student in North East India
14. ODL in NE India-Catalyst for Development
15. Synergising Learning with Skills, with special reference to NE India
16. Identity of New Learning Exploring Distance Learning in NE India
17. Synergies and Networking-Possibilities of ODL in NE India

Call for Papers:
Original and unpublished research papers are invited from the Academicians, Research scholars and stake holders across the nation focusing on the theme & sub themes of the conference. Abstract should be submitted on or before 10th April’17 at conferencevision2025@gmail.com and authors will be notified by 17th April’17 about the status of their abstract. Full papers for the conference should be submitted before 30th April’17.
**Guidelines for Paper Presenters:**

Paper contributors should note the following:

1. Abstracts should be limited to 300 words along with the title.
2. Total length of the Full paper should not be more than 5000 words.
3. The title of the paper and name of the author(s) should be given on the front page.
4. It should be written in A4 size format with 12 font size, 1.5 spacing and 1.0 margin.
5. Standard APA style should be used for reference. Footnotes should contain name of the author, title of the book/journal, place and year of publication.
6. Maps, diagram and photographs, if used, should be in JPEG and print format.
7. Lastly, papers which focus on the Conference theme would be given top priority in the selection process.

**Selected papers will be published in Conference proceeding after peer review.**

**Registration & Important Dates:**

Please send filled in registration form along with your abstract. Registration fee of Rs. 1000/- to be deposited during registration on 06/05/2017

Last date for submission of abstracts: 10th April 2017. (Soft Copy)

Last date for submission of Full Paper: 30th April 2017. (Soft Copy)

Conference Date: 6th and 7th May 2017

**Accommodation & TA:**

Accommodation shall be provided to the outstation participants on advance request and confirmation of participation 15 days ahead of schedule of the conference. TA (by AC-III) will be provided to limited paper presenters.

**About Jorhat:**

Jorhat is one of the major cities of Assam. Jorhat acts as a gateway to upper Assam and to the state of Nagaland. It was the last capital of the Ahom Kingdom and home to many historical monuments of Assamese culture. In the north of the district, the Brahmaputra river forms the largest riverine island of the world, Majuli, which spreads over 924.6 square kilometres with a population of about 150,000. The island, threatened with constant erosion by the mighty and unstable Brahmaputra River, had been the principal place of pilgrimage of Vaishnavites since the age of the Ahom rulers. Several Sattras (monasteries) resembling those of medieval times are headed by Satradhikars teaching Vaishnavism, which was introduced by Srimanta Sankardeva (1449-1568). Each Sattra has an unknown wealth of Vaishnavite scriptures and extensive revenue-free lands cultivated by the Bhakats (Vaishnavite monks) of the Sattras. The cultural diversities which prevailed in Jorhat nearly a century ago has inspired the people to participate in cultural activities through the decades and as a result Jorhat has been able to produce many creative writers, musician, actors, historians and journalists, terming Jorhat "The Cultural Capital of Assam".

**How to reach Jorhat:**

**Air:** There are regular flights to Jorhat from other major cities of the country. Airport: Rowriah Airport

**TRAIN:** There are regular trains from other major cities of the country to Jorhat. The Jan Shatabdi Express runs to major cities of the country from Jorhat.

**BY BUS:** Jorhat is well connected to other major nearby cities of the country via regular buses.

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY:**

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, has continuously striven to build an inclusive knowledge society through inclusive education. It has tried to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by offering high-quality teaching through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. The University began by offering two academic programmes in 1987, i.e., Diploma in Management and Diploma in Distance Education, with a strength of 4,528 students. Today, it serves the educational aspirations of over 3 million students in India and other countries through 21 Schools of Studies and a network of 67 regional centres, around 2,667 learner support centres and 29 overseas partner institutions. The University offers about 228 certificate, diploma, degree and doctoral programmes, with a strength of nearly 810 faculty members and 574 academic staff at the headquarters and regional centres and about 33,212 academic counsellors from conventional institutions of higher learning, professional organisations, and industry among others.
IGNOU Regional Centre-Jorhat:
To provide access to higher education to all segments of the society and to offer high-quality, innovative and need-based programmes at different levels, IGNOU established the Jorhat Regional Centre in 2013 covering 13 districts of upper Assam (Hojai, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sivsagar, Charaideo, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur and Majuli). To reach out to the disadvantaged groups, RC-Jorhat has been adopting various methods and now serving educational aspirations of more than 14000 learners through 26 study centres spreading over the 13 districts.

CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology:
North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, Assam, a constituent establishment of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, has been engaged in multidisciplinary R&D work relevant to the country in general and North Eastern Region in particular. The CSIR- North East Institute of Science and Technology, formerly (RRL), Jorhat was established in the year 1961 as one of the multidisciplinary laboratories of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) under its Chemical Science Group of laboratories. Its major thrust of R&D activities has been to develop indigenous technologies by utilising the immense natural wealth of India.

Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University:
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University was established to provide quality higher education through open and distance learning to reach the unreached of the society by an act in 2005 enacted by the Govt. of Assam. The University Grants Commission has empowered the University to award degrees and it is the fourteenth of its kind along with IGNOU and the only state Open University in the whole of NE India. The main aim of the university is to develop and provide easily accessible modes of quality higher education and training with the use of latest educational inputs and technology. The very purpose of the University is to promote education to reach the unreached through the Open and Distance Learning System and the motto of the University is ‘Education Beyond Barriers’ of age, academic background and geographical boundaries. The University has been offering several academic programmes. At present the university is offering around forty academic programmes in Humanities, Science, Social sciences and professional areas, such as – Ph. D., Masters, Bachelors’ degree, Diploma and Certificate programme.

Chief Patron
Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU

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Dr. Hitesh Deka, Vice-Chancellor, KKHSOU, Dr. D. Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST,
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Registration Form

NAME (CAPITAL): ____________________________________________

Designation: ________________________________________________

Gender: ____________________________________________________

Official Address: ____________________________________________

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E-mail: ________________________________________________________

Mobile No.: __________________________________________________

Title of the paper: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Name of co-authors if any: ______________________________________

Do you need Accommodation: Yes/No

Do you need Travel Support (by AC-III): Yes/No

Registration fee of Rs.1000.00 has to be deposited at the time of Registration on 06/05/2017

Signature of the participant